NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF DEFENDANTS DFS SERVICES LLC. AND DISCOVER BANK

Case 2:08-cv-04886-MMM-MAN Document 1 Filed 07/24/08 Page 1 of 28 Page ID #:1

TO THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Sections 1331, 1332, 1367, 1441, 1446, 1453 and the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA"), Pub. L. 109-2, § 1(a), 119 Stat. 4 (Feb. 18, 2005), defendants DFS Services LLC, formerly known as Discover Financial Services, Inc. ("DFS"), and Discover Bank (together, "Discover") hereby remove the action entitled Susan Yoon v. Discover Financial Services, Inc., et al., California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 392770 (the "Action"), to the United States District Court, Central District of California, on the following grounds:

1. Discover's Removal Is Timely. Plaintiff Susan Yoon ("Yoon") filed her Complaint in this Action on or about June 16, 2008, and the Complaint and Summons were personally served on Discover's registered agent on or about June 25, 2008. True and correct copies of the Summons and Complaint as received by Discover are attached hereto as Exhibit A. The Complaint was the first pleading received by Discover, and alleges the following causes of action against Discover: (1) alleged violation of sections 631 and 632 of the California Penal Code; (2) alleged violation of the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 1692, et seq (the "FDCPA"), a federal law; (3) alleged violation of the Rosenthal Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, California Civil Code section 1788, et seq.; (4) alleged violation of California Business and Practices Code section 17200, et seq.; (5) alleged violation of California Civil Code section 1708.8; (6) alleged violation of the California Constitution, article I, section I; and (7) alleged common law invasion of privacy. Discover's removal is timely pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1446(b) because Discover filed this Notice of Removal within 30 days of receiving the Summons and Complaint.

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a. <u>Federal Question</u>. The Action is a civil action over which this Court has original jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. section 1331 and is one that may be removed to this Court by Discover pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. section 1441(b) in that Yoon alleges violations of the FDCPA. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Yoon's state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. sections 1367 and 1441(c).

b. <u>CAFA.</u>

i. The Action Is A "Class Action." A "class action," as defined by CAFA, is "any civil action filed under rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or similar state statute or rule of judicial procedure authorizing an action to be brought by 1 or more representative persons as a class action." 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d)(1)(B), 1453(a). Yoon alleges that the Action is brought on behalf of a putative class consisting of "[a]ll persons in the United States who received collection calls from Defendants that were recorded, or monitored, from June 16, 2004 through the present" (the "Putative Class"). (Complaint ¶ 24.) Yoon also seeks to represent a "California Subclass" consisting of "all members of the [Putative] Class whom Defendants telephoned at an area-code located in the State of California" (the "Putative Subclass"). (Id.) Yoon has filed the Action as a purported class action pursuant to California Civil Code section 382. (Id.)

ii. <u>Diversity Of Citizenship Exists.</u> Under CAFA, diversity is satisfied when "any member of a class of plaintiffs is a citizen of a State different

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DFS and Discover Bank dispute that they are subject to the FDCPA. Without in any way conceding liability under that or any other statute or common law theory, DFS Services LLC and Discover Bank note that removal of the Action is based on the allegations of Yoon's Complaint, whether or not the allegations are accurate or appropriate. See Williams v. Costco Wholesale Corp., 471 F.3d 975, 976 (9th Cir. 2006) (explaining that "the propriety of removal is determined solely on the basis of the pleadings filed in state court").

from any defendant " 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A). Yoon is, and at all relevant
times was, a resident of Los Angeles County, California. (Complaint ¶ 2.) DFS is a
limited liability company existing under the laws of Delaware, and Discover Bank is
a Delaware corporation. (Complaint ¶¶ 3-4.) Both DFS and Discover Bank have
their principal places of business in Illinois. (Id.)

The Amount In Controversy Is Satisfied. The amount in iii. controversy under CAFA is satisfied "if the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs." 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2). Furthermore, "[i]n any class action, the claims of individual class members shall be aggregated to determine whether the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000." 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(6). Youn alleges that Discover marketed, advertised and issued a Discover Card to her in 2003. (Complaint ¶ 18.) Yoon alleges that Discover placed calls to Yoon at her home to demand delinquent payments. (See Complaint ¶ 20-21.) Yoon further alleges that, during these calls, Discover "intentionally monitored, listened to, tape-recorded, eavesdropped onto and/or otherwise made an unauthorized connection to the conversations . . . without informing [Plaintiff] or receiving her consent." (Complaint ¶ 21.) Moreover, Yoon avers that hers "was not an isolated incident" and that DFS and Discover Bank "intentionally and systematically monitor and/or record the calls they make to Discover Card holders." (Complaint ¶ 23.)

Yoon has not alleged any specific amount of damages. However, based on the allegations contained in the Complaint, it is clear that the Complaint seeks relief on behalf of the Putative Class that would exceed the sum or value of \$5,000,000.²

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² Proving the amount in controversy entails showing only the amount it is <u>possible</u> Yoon will recover, not the amount Yoon <u>will</u> recover. <u>See, e.g., Brill v. Countrywide</u> <u>Home Loans, Inc.</u>, 427 F.3d 446, 449 (7th Cir. 2005) ("The demonstration concerns what the plaintiff is claiming (and thus the amount in controversy between the parties), not whether plaintiff is likely to win or be awarded everything he seeks."). Even without a formal damages model, the \$5 million threshold can be established

Among other things, Yoon seeks (1) actual damages; (2) the greater of three times the amount of any actual damages award or \$5,000 per incident, pursuant to California Penal Code section 637.2(a); (3) injunctive relief, pursuant to California Penal Code section 637.2(b) and California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, et seq. and 17500, et seq.; (4) actual damages and attorneys' fees, additional statutory damages of at least \$1,000 dollars per violation and/or per letter or phone conversation, class action damages of the lesser of \$500,000 or, in the alternative, one percent of Discover's net worth, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. section 1692k; (5) statutory damages of \$1,000 per incident pursuant to California Civil Code sections 1788.17 and 1788.30; and (6) disgorgement of monies acquired by Discover relating to the acts complained of in the Complaint. (Complaint ¶¶ 37-40, 48, 56, 62-65, 72-75, 80, 84, Prayer For Relief.)

Yoon alleges that the Putative Class and the Putative Subclass "is each composed of more than 5,000 persons." (Complaint \P 26.) Discover denies liability and Yoon's right to recover any damages. However, based on the damages sought (including statutory damages of at least \$5,000 per violation), and Yoon's definition of the Putative Class (each member of the Putative Class was involved in at least one "incident" as relevant here), Yoon seeks, at a minimum, \$25,005,000 (5001 persons x one incident x \$5,000 in statutory damages). This amount far exceeds the amount in controversy required by CAFA. Even Yoon's separate request of \$1,000 per incident satisfies the requirement (5001 persons x one incident x \$1,000 in statutory damages = \$5,005,000). Based on the foregoing, the amount in controversy requirement under CAFA clearly is satisfied.

3. Removal Is Proper. Other than Discover, there currently is no defendant in the Action who may have been served with the Summons and Complaint.

Accordingly, no other defendant's joinder or consent is required. In any event,

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by reference to the logical implications of Yoon's Complaint. See, e.g., Lao v. Wickes Furniture Co., 455 F. Supp. 2d 1045, 1049-50 (C.D. Cal. 2006).

1	CAFA allows for the removal of class act	ions to federal court in accordance with 28	
2	U.S.C. section 1446, "without the consent of all defendants." 28 U.S.C. § 1453(b).		
3	Accordingly, Discover is permitted to file this Notice of Removal without the joinder		
4	or consent of any other defendant.		
5	4. Notice Has Been Effected.	A copy of this Notice of Removal is being	
6	filed with the California Superior Court, C	County of Los Angeles, and concurrently	
7	served on Yoon's counsel of record.		
8	Dated: July 24, 2008 R	espectfully submitted,	
9	S	TROOCK & STROOCK & LAVAN LLP	
10	11	JLIA B. STRICKLAND COTT M. PEARSON	
11		ARIUS K.C. ZOLNOR	
12	B		
13	D _.	Julia B. Strickland	
14		U	
15		Attorneys for Defendants DFS SERVICES LLC, formerly known	
16		as DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., and DISCOVER	
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Case 2	U8-CV-U4886-MINIM-MAN	Document 1	Filed 07/24/08	Page 7 of 28	Page ID #:7
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SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

SUM-100

FOR COURT USE ONLY (SOLO PARA USO DE LA CORTE)

CONFORMED COPY

OF ORIGINAL FILED Los Angeles Superior Court

JUN 1 6 2008

John A. Clarke, Executive Officer/Clerk

BY MARY GARCIA, Deputy

1LC DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICES INC.; DISCOVER BANK; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:

(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

SUSAN YOON, an individual, on behalf of herself, the general public and those similarly situated

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away, if you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratultos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

Los Angeles Superior Court 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

CASE NUMBER: (Número del Caso)

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiffs attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Seth A. Safier, Esq., Gutride Safier LLP, 835 Douglass Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-336-6545

DATE: (Fecha) , 7 m 1 6 2008	JOHN A. CLARK BEGERK	, Deputy (Adjunto)
(For proof of service of this sur (Para prueba de entrega de es	mmons, Proof of Service of Summons (form POS-010).) sta citation use al formulario Proof of Service of Summons, (POS-010)).	
[SEAL]	NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served 1 as an individual defendant. 2 as the person sued under the fictitious name of (specify):	
	3. Son behalf of (specify): Discovery Financial S	exulce
	under: CCP 416.10 (corporation) CCP 416.60 (minor) CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation) CCP 416.70 (conserva CCP 416.40 (association or partnership) CCP 416.90 (authorize	itee)
	other (specify): 4 by personal delivery on (date):	Page 1 of 1

Form Adopted for Mandatory Use udicial Council of California SUM-100 [Rev. January 1, 2004]

SUMMONS

Code of Civil Procedure §§ 412.20, 465

CONFORMED COPY OF ORIGINAL FILED Los Angeles Superior Court GUTRIDE SAFIER LLP ADAM J. GUTRIDE (State Bar No. 181446) JUN 1 5 2008 2 SETH A. SAFIER (State Bar No. 197427) 835 Douglass Street 3 San Francisco, California 94114 John A. Clarke Executive Officer/Clerk Telephone: (415) 336-6545 4 BY MARY OARCIA, Deputy Facsimile: (415) 449-6469 5 Attorneys for Plaintiff 6 7 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 8 CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BC392770 9 10 SUSAN YOON, an individual, on behalf of herself, the CASE NO. general public and those similarly situated 11 UNLIMITED CIVIL CASE Plaintiff, 12 CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT 13 ٧. FOR VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE 14 §§ 631, 632; VIOLATION OF DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICES INC.; DISCOVER THE FAIR DEBT COLLEC-15 BANK; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, TION PRACTICES ACT, 15 16 USC § 1692, ET SEO; VIOLA-Defendants. TION OF THE ROSENTHAL 17 FAIR DEBT COLLECTIONS **Defendants** PRACTICES ACT, CALIFOR-18 NIA CIVIL CODE § 1788, ET SEQ; UNFAIR BUSINESS 19 PRACTICES; VIOLATION OF 20 CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE 8 1708.8; INVASION OF PRI-21 VACY, CALIFORNIA CON-STITUTION ARTICLE I. 22 SECTION I; AND UNLAWFUL INTRUSION INTO PRIVATE 23 **AFFAIRS** 24 JURY TRIAL DEMANDED 25 26 27 28

Susan Yoon, by and through her counsel, brings this Class Action Complaint against 1 2 Defendants, on behalf of herself and, as set forth herein, those similarly situated, for violation of California Penal Code §§ 631, 632; violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 USC § 3 1692, et seq.; violation of the Rosenthal Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, California Civil 4 5 Code § 1788, et seq.; violations of section 17200, et seq. of the California Business and Professions Code; violation of California Civil Code § 1708.8; invasion of privacy, California 6 Constitution, Article I, Section I; and unlawful intrusion into private affairs, also known as 7 common law invasion of privacy. The following allegations are based upon information and 8 9 belief, including the investigation of Plaintiff's counsel, unless stated otherwise.

INTRODUCTION

1. This case is about Defendants' unlawful and unfair debt collection practices.

Specifically, Defendants intentionally monitor and tape-record private telephone conversations without notifying consumers and/or seeking their consent, in violation of state and federal law.

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<u>PARTIES</u>

- 2. Susan Yoon ("Plaintiff") is, and at all times alleged in this Class Action Complaint was, an individual and a resident of the City of Northridge in Los Angeles County, California.
- 3. Defendant Discover Financial Services, Inc. is a corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware, having its principal place of business in Riverwood, Illinois.
- 4. Defendant Discover Bank is a corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware, having its principal place of business in Riverwood, Illinois.
- 5. The true names and capacities of Defendants sued as Does 1 through 50 inclusive are unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names pursuant to section 474 of the California Code of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff will seek leave of Court to amend this Class Action Complaint when said true names and capacities have been ascertained.
- 6. The Parties identified in paragraphs 3 through 5 of this Class Action Complaint are collectively referred to hereafter as "Defendants" or "Discover."
- 7. At all times herein mentioned, each of the Defendants was the agent, servant, representative, officer, director, partner or employee of the other Defendants and, in doing the

Defendants Market, Advertise and Provide Credit Cards And Related Credit Card Services

Discover is one of the nation's leading banks and credit card issuers.

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17. Discover markets, advertises and issues to consumers throughout the nation credit cards commonly know as "Discover Cards." Defendants issue a number of Discover Cards including for example the "Discover More Card," "Discover Open Road Card," "Discover Motiva Card," "Miles by Discover Card" and "Discover Student Card."

Plaintiff Received A Discover Card

- 18. In 2003, Defendants marketed, advertised and issued to Plaintiff a Discover Card.
- 19. Following Plaintiff's receipt of her Discover Card, she charged certain goods and services to her Discover Card.
- 20. In or around December of 2007, because she was under treatment for a serious illness, Plaintiff fell behind in her monthly payments to Defendants.

<u>Defendants' Unlawfully Monitored And/Or Tape-Recorded Phone Calls To Plaintiff And</u> Those Similarly Situated.

- 21. Defendants began calling Plaintiff at her home to demand payment. Unbeknownst to Plaintiff, Defendants intentionally monitored, listened to, tape-recorded, eavesdropped onto and/or otherwise made an unauthorized connection to the conversations that Plaintiff had with Defendants, without informing her or receiving her consent. Although customers who call Discover are informed during the calls that their calls may be monitored or recorded, no such information is provided to customers who are called by Discover.
- 22. Plaintiff learned of Defendants' illegal activities during one of Defendants' debt collection calls to Plaintiff, when Plaintiff heard a beeping sound. Plaintiff asked Defendants whether the phone call was being recorded. Defendants' agent stated that Defendants randomly record calls and she could not say whether that particular call was being monitored or recorded. At no prior time had Defendants informed Plaintiff that the call was being monitored and/or recorded. Nor did Defendants seek Plaintiff's consent for the monitoring and/or recording of the telephone call.
- 23. This was not an isolated incident. Rather, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants intentionally and systematically monitor and/or record the calls they make to Discover Card holders.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

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Plaintiff brings this action against Defendants on behalf of herself and all others 24. similarly situated, as a class action pursuant to section 382 of the California Code of Civil Procedure and section 1781 of the California Civil Code. Plaintiff seeks to represent a Class defined as follows:

> All persons in the United States who received collection calls from Defendants that were recorded, or monitored, from June 16, 2004 through the present.

Plaintiff also seeks to represent a "California Subclass" comprised of all members of the Class whom Defendants telephoned at an area-code located in the State of California. For purposes of this Class Action Complaint, the unmodified word "Class" and the phrase "Class Members" shall refer collectively to all members of the Class, including the named Plaintiff,

- This action has been brought and may properly be maintained as a class action 25. against the Defendants pursuant to the provisions of California Code of Civil Procedure section 382 because there is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation and the proposed class is easily ascertainable.
- Numerosity: Plaintiff does not know the exact size of the class, but it is estimated 26. that the Class, and the California Subclass, is each composed of more than 5,000 persons. The persons in each class and subclass are so numerous that the joinder of all such persons is impracticable and the disposition of their claims in a class action rather than in individual actions will benefit the parties and the courts.
- Common Questions Predominate: This action involves common questions of law 27. and fact to the potential class because each Class Member's claim derives from the unlawful or unfair monitoring, listening to, tape-recording, eavesdropping onto and/or otherwise making an unauthorized connection to the conversations that Plaintiff and those similarly situated had with Defendants without their knowledge and consent. The common questions of law and fact predominate over individual questions, as proof of a common or single set of facts will establish the right of each member of the Class to recover. Among the questions of law and fact common to the class are:

- 30. Superiority: There is no plain, speedy, or adequate remedy other than by maintenance of this class action. The prosecution of individual remedies by members of the class will tend to establish inconsistent standards of conduct for the Defendants and result in the impairment of Class Members' rights and the disposition of their interests through actions to which they were not parties. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions world engender. Furthermore, as the damages suffered by each individual member of the class may be relatively small, the expenses and burden of individual litigation would make it difficult or impossible for individual members of the class to redress the wrongs done to them, while an important public interest will be served by addressing the matter as a class action.
- 31. Nexus to California. The State of California has a special interest in regulating the affairs of corporations that do business here and persons who live here. Defendants have issued more credit cards in California than in any other state. Defendants also have monitored, listened to, tape-recorded, eavesdropped onto and/or otherwise made unauthorized connections to more conversations in California than in any other state. Accordingly, there is a substantial nexus

1	between Defendants' unlawful behavior and California such that the California courts should take			
2	cognizance of this action on behalf of a class of individuals who reside throughout the United			
3	States.			
4	32.	Plaintiff is unaware of any difficulties that are likely to be encountered in the		
5	management	of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.		
6		CAUSES OF ACTION		
7	~	PLAINTIFF'S FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION		
8		(Invasion of Privacy, California Penal Code § 637.2) On Behalf of Herself and the California Subclass		
9	33.	Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the above paragraphs of this Class		
10	Action Com	plaint as if set forth herein.		
11	34.	Section 631(a) of the California Penal Code provides, in pertinent part:		
12		Any person whomakes any unauthorized connection, whether physically,		
13		electrically, acoustically, inductively, or otherwise, with any telegraph or telephone wire, line, cable, or instrument, including the wire, line, cable, or		
14		instrument of any internal telephonic communication system, or who willfully and without the consent of all parties to the communication, or in any unauthorized		
15		manner, reads, or attempts to read, or to learn the contents or meaning of any message, report, or communication while the same is in transit or passing over any		
16 17		wire, line, or cable, or is being sent from, or received at any place within this state; or who uses, or attempts to use, in any manner, or for any purpose, or to communicate in any way, any information so obtained, or who aids, agrees with,		
18		employs, or conspires with any person or persons to unlawfully do, or permit, or cause to be done any of the acts or things mentioned above in this section, is punishable by a fine not exceeding two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500), or		
19		by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one year, or by imprisonment in the state prison, or by both a fine and imprisonment in the county jail or in the state prison.		
20 21	35.	Section 632(a) of the California Penal Code provides:		
22		Every person who, intentionally and without the consent of all parties to a		
23		confidential communication, by means of any electronic amplifying or recording device, eavesdrops upon or records the confidential communication, whether the		
24		communication is carried on among the parties in the presence of one another or by means of a telegraph, telephone, or other device, except a radio, shall be		
25		punished by a fine not exceeding [\$2,500], or imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one year, or in the state prison, or by both that fine and imprisonment"		
26	36.	On or about February 2, 2008, and on many prior occasions, Defendants		
27	intentionally	eavesdropped upon and/or recorded the confidential communications of Plaintiff		
28	without her knowledge or consent. On numerous occasions before and after that time,			

1	Defendants have intentionally envendropped upon and/or record also as a		
	Defendants have intentionally eavesdropped upon and/or recorded the confidential		
2	communications of those similarly situated without their knowledge or consent. Defendants		
3	accordingly violated §§ 631(a) and 632(a) of the California Penal Code.		
4	37.	California Penal Code § 637.2(a) provides:	
5		Any person who has been injured by a violation of this chapter may bring an	
6		action against the person who committed the violation for the greater of the following amounts: (1) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000). (2) Three times the amount of actual damages, if any, sustained by the plaintiff.	
7	38.	California Penal Code § 637.2(b) provides:	
8		(b) Any person may, in accordance with Chapter 3 (commencing with Section	
9		525) of Title 7 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure, bring an action to enjoin and restrain any violation of this chapter, and may in the same action seek damages as provided by subdivision (a).	
11	39.	As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' violation of California Penal Code	
12	§§ 631(a) and	632(a), Plaintiff and those similarly situated have suffered, and continue to suffer,	
13	damages in an amount which will be proven at trial, but which are in excess of the jurisdictional		
14	minimum of this Court. Plaintiff and those similarly situated are entitled to, at a minimum,		
15	statutory damages of \$5,000 per incident.		
16	40.	Pursuant to Cal. Penal Code § 637.2(b), Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and those	
17	similarly situa	ted in the California Subclass, additionally seeks injunctive relief restraining	
18	Defendants from violating §§ 631(a) and 632(a) of the California Penal Code in the future. Such		
19	misconduct by Defendants, unless and until enjoined and restrained by order of this Court, will		
20	continue to cause injury in fact to the general public in that the Defendants will continue to		
21	violate the laws of California, unless specifically ordered to comply with the same. This		
22	expectation of future violations will require current and future credit card owners to repeatedly		
23	and continuously seek legal redress. Plaintiff, those similarly situated, have no other adequate		
24	remedy at law to ensure future compliance with the laws alleged to have been violated herein.		
25		PLAINTIFF'S SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION	
26	(Violation of Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 USC § 1692, et seq.) On Behalf of Herself and the Class		
27	41.	Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the above paragraphs of this Class	
28		int as if set forth herein.	
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- 42. Plaintiffs, and members of the Class, are "consumers" under 15 USC § 1692a since they are natural persons allegedly obligated to pay debts to Defendant.
- 43. Defendants are "debt collectors" under 15 USC § 1692a(6) and they use instruments of interstate commerce in the mails and phones to collect alleged debts.
- 44. Defendants are subject to the regulations and prohibitions of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 USC § 1692, et seq.
- 45. Defendants violated 15 USC § 1692d generally and more specifically in the following manner: by monitoring, listening to, tape-recording, eavesdropping and/or otherwise making an unauthorized connection to the conversations that Plaintiff, and those similarly situated, had with Defendants without their knowledge and consent, Defendants harassed, oppressed, or abused (and continue to harass, oppress or abuse) Plaintiff, and those similarly situated, in connection with the collection of an alleged debt.
- 46. Defendants violated 15 USC § 1692e generally and more specifically in the following manner: by monitoring, listening to, tape-recording, eavesdropping and/or otherwise making an unauthorized connection to the conversations that Plaintiff, and those similarly situated, had with Defendants without their knowledge and consent, Defendants used (and continue to use) false representations or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt or to obtain information concerning a consumer.
- 47. Defendants violated 15 USC § 1692f generally and more specifically in the following manner: by monitoring, listening to, tape-recording, eavesdropping and/or otherwise making an unauthorized connection to the conversations that Plaintiff, and those similarly situated, had with Defendants without their knowledge and consent, Defendants used (and continue to use) unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any alleged debt.
- 48. Plaintiffs, individually and as a class, are entitled to their actual damages, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs under 15 USC § 1692k, additional damages under 1692k(a)(2) of at least one thousand dollars per violation and or per letter or phone conversation, whichever is greater, for class action damages of \$500,000.00 as set forth in 1692k(a)(2)(B), and for additional damages as deemed just by the Court.

jurisdictional minimum of this Court. Plaintiff and those similarly situated are entitled to, at a

minimum, statutory damages of \$1,000 per incident as set forth in Civil Code §§1788.17 and

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1788.30.

PLAINTIFF'S FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Unfair, Unlawful and Deceptive Trade Practices, Business and Professions Code §

17200, et seq.) On Behalf of Herself and the California Subclass

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Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the above paragraphs of this Class 57. Action Complaint as if set forth herein.

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Within four (4) years preceding the filing of this Class Action Complaint, and at 58. all times mentioned herein, Defendants have engaged, and continue to engage, in unfair, unlawful and deceptive trade practices in California by engaging in the unfair and illegal business practices outlined above, in particular by unfairly, unlawfully and deceptively monitoring, listening to, tape-recording, eavesdropping and/or otherwise making unauthorized connections to the

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conversations that Plaintiff had with Defendants without their knowledge and consent.

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59.

Plaintiff, and those similarly situated, suffered injury and lost money or property as a result of these unfair trade practices in that their rights to privacy were impinged and/or they

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paid money to Defendants for alleged debts that they would not have paid had the unfair trade practices not occurred.

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Defendants engage in these unfair practices to increase their profits. Accordingly, 60. Defendants have engaged in unlawful, unfair and/or deceptive trade practices, as defined and prohibited by section 17200, et seq. of the California Business and Professions Code.

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The aforementioned practices, which Defendants have used, and continue to use, 61. to their significant financial gain, also constitute unlawful competition and provide an unlawful advantage over Defendants' competitors as well as injury to the general public.

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Plaintiff seeks, on behalf of herself and those similarly situated, full restitution and 62. disgorgement of monies, as necessary and according to proof, to restore to them any and all monies acquired by Defendants from them by means of the unlawful, unfair and/or deceptive

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trade practices complained of herein, plus interest thereon.

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Plaintiff seeks, on behalf of herself and those similarly situated, a declaration that 63. the above-described trade practices are unfair, unlawful, deceptive and/or fraudulent, and an injunction to prohibit Defendants from continuing to engage in the unfair trade practices

- complained of herein. Such misconduct by Defendants, unless and until enjoined and restrained by order of this Court, will continue to cause injury in fact to the general public and the loss of money and property in that the Defendants will continue to violate the laws of California, unless specifically ordered to comply with the same. This expectation of future violations will require current and future customers to repeatedly and continuously seek legal redress in order to recover monies paid to Defendants to which Defendants are not entitled. Plaintiff, those similarly situated and/or other consumers nationwide have no other adequate remedy at law to ensure future compliance with the California Business and Professions Code alleged to have been violated herein.
- 64. As a direct and proximate result of such actions, Plaintiff and the other members of the Class have suffered and continue to suffer injury in fact and have lost money and/or property as a result of such deceptive, unfair and/or unlawful trade practices and unfair competition in an amount which will be proven at trial, but which is in excess of the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.
- 65. As a direct and proximate result of such actions, Defendants have enjoyed, and continue to enjoy, significant financial gain in an amount which will be proven at trial, but which is in excess of the jurisdictional minimum of this Court. The acts complained of herein occurred, at least in part, within four (4) years preceding the filing of this Class Action Complaint.

PLAINTIFF'S FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Constructive Invasion of Privacy, California Civil Code § 1708.8) On Behalf of Herself And The California Subclass

- 66. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the above paragraphs of this Class Action Complaint as if set forth herein.
 - 67. California Civil Code section 1708.8(b) provides:

A person is liable for constructive invasion of privacy when the defendant attempts to capture, in a manner that is offensive to a reasonable person, any type of visual image, sound recording, or other physical impression of the plaintiff engaging in a personal or familial activity under circumstances in which the plaintiff had a reasonable expectation of privacy, through the use of a visual or auditory enhancing device, regardless of whether there is a physical trespass, if this image, sound recording, or other physical impression could not have been achieved without a trespass unless the visual or auditory enhancing device was used.

68. California Civil Code section 1708.8(d) provides:

A person who commits any act described in subdivision (a), (b), or (c) is liable for up to three times the amount of any general and special damages that are proximately caused by the violation of this section. This person may also be liable for punitive damages, subject to proof according to Section 3294. If the plaintiff proves that the invasion of privacy was committed for a commercial purpose, the defendant shall also be subject to disgorgement to the plaintiff of any proceeds or other consideration obtained as a result of the violation of this section.

69. California Civil Code section 1708.8(e) provides:

A person who directs, solicits, actually induces, or actually causes another person, regardless of whether there is a employer-employee relationship, to violate any provision of subdivision (a), (b), or (c) is liable for any general, special, and consequential damages resulting from each said violation. In addition, the person that directs, solicits, instigates, induces, or otherwise causes another person, regardless of whether there is an employer-employee relationship, to violate this section shall be liable for punitive damages to the extent that an employer would be subject to punitive damages pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 3294.

- 70. By its conduct, Defendant has knowingly and intentionally captured, in a manner that is offensive to a reasonable person, sound recordings of Plaintiff, and those similarly situated, engaging in a personal or familial activity under circumstances in which Plaintiff, and those similarly situated, had a reasonable expectation of privacy, through the use of an auditory enhancing device that could not have been achieved without a trespass unless the visual or auditory enhancing device was used.
- 71. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' violation of California Civil Code section 1708.8, et seq. Plaintiff and those similarly situated have suffered, and continue to suffer, damages in an amount which will be proven at trial, but which are in excess of the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.
- 72. Plaintiff and those similarly situated are, pursuant to California Civil Code §§ 1708.8(d) and (e), entitled to actual, special and punitive damages and injunctive relief for the above-mentioned tortuous act of Defendants. Plaintiff and those similarly situated are entitled to treble their actual and special damages.
- 73. As a direct and proximate result of such actions, Defendants have enjoyed, and continue to enjoy, significant financial gain in an amount which will be proven at trial, but which is in excess of the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.
 - 74. Plaintiff seeks disgorgement of monies, as necessary and according to proof,

acquired by Defendants from them by means complained of herein, plus interest thereon.

similarly situated, additionally seeks injunctive relief restraining Defendants from violating §

1708.8, et seq. of the California Civil Code in the future. Such misconduct by Defendants,

Pursuant to Civil Code § 1708.8(h), Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and those

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unless and until enjoined and restrained by order of this Court, will continue to cause injury in fact to the general public in that the Defendants will continue to violate the laws of California, unless specifically ordered to comply with the same. This expectation of future violations will require current and future credit card owners to repeatedly and continuously seek legal redress. Plaintiff, those similarly situated and/or other consumers nationwide have no other adequate remedy at law to ensure future compliance with the California Civil Code alleged to have been violated herein.

PLAINTIFF'S SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Invasion of Privacy, California Constitution, Article I, Section I) On Behalf of Herself And The California Subclasses

- Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the above paragraphs of this Class Action 76. Complaint as if set forth herein.
- As set forth above, Defendants monitored, listened to, tape-recorded, 77. eavesdropped onto and/or otherwise made unauthorized connections to the conversations that Plaintiff had with Defendants.
- 78. The above-mentioned conduct violated the California Constitution, Article I. Section I because Defendants' conduct impacted on a legally protected right of Plaintiff, and those similarly situated.
- 79. Plaintiff, and those similarly situated, had a reasonable expectation of privacy in her (and their) telephone calls. Defendants' invasion of the Plaintiff's (and those similarly situated) privacy interested was (and is) serious. Defendants have (and can) not show a competing or countervailing interest to justify their invasion of privacy.
- 80. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' violation of California Constitution, Article I, Section I, Plaintiff and those similarly situated have suffered, and continue to suffer, damages in an amount which will be proven at trial, but which are in excess of the

jurisdictional minimum of this Court.

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Complaint as if set forth herein.

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PLAINTIFF'S SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Unlawful Intrusion Into Private Affairs, a.k.a. Common Law Invasion of Privacy) On Behalf of Herself And The Class

- 81. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the above paragraphs of this Class Action
- 82. Plaintiff, and those similarly situated, had reasonable expectations of privacy when Defendants contacted them with regard to their personal financial matters. Defendants unlawfully intruded in the Plaintiff's, and those similarly situated, private affairs when Defendants monitored, eavesdropped onto, or tape recorded their telephone conversations concerning personal financial matters without their knowledge or consent.
- Defendants' conduct was unlawful and outrageous such that it would shock the conscience of a reasonable person.
- 84. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' outrageous and unlawful conduct. Plaintiff and those similarly situated have suffered, and continue to suffer, damages in an amount which will be proven at trial, but which are in excess of the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:

- A. On Cause of Action Number 1 against Defendants and in favor of Plaintiff and the other members of the California Subclass:
 - 1. For an award actual compensatory damages, the amount of which is to be determined at trial;
 - 2. For treble damages, including three (3) times the amount of any general and special damages according to proof pursuant to California Penal Code § 637.2(a)(2);
 - 3. For statutory damages, including damages of at least \$5,000 or per violation and/or per recorded or monitored phone conversation, whichever is greater, pursuant to California Penal Code § 637.2(a)(1); and

1	4. For injunctive relief pursuant to, without limitation, California Pe-		
2	nal Code § 637.2(b).		
3	B. On Cause of Action Number 2 against Defendants and in favor of Plaintiff and the Class:		
5	1. For actual and compensatory damages as allowed under the Fair		
6	Debt Collection Practices Act;		
7	2. For additional damages under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2) of at least		
8	one thousand dollars per violation and/or per recorded or monitored		
9	phone conversation, whichever is greater;		
10	3. For at least \$500,000.00 under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(B), or in		
11	the alternative one percent of the net worth of Defendant and its re-		
12	lated entities;		
13	4. For the Court fairly apportion all damages among the class mem-		
14	bers; and		
15	5. For reasonable attorney's fees to Plaintiff and her counsel pursuant		
16	to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k;		
17	C. On Cause of Action Number 3 against Defendants and in favor of Plaintiff and the California Subclass:		
18	1. For actual or compensatory damages according to proof;		
19	2. For statutory damages pursuant to Civil Code §1788.17, and Civil		
20	Code §1788.30; and		
21	3. Costs and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to Civil Code		
22	§1788.17 and Civil Code §1788.30.		
23	D. On Cause of Action Number 4 against Defendants and in favor of		
24	Plaintiff and the other members of the California Subclass:		
25	1. For restitution and disgorgement pursuant to, without limitation, the		
26	California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq. and		
27	17500, et seq.; and		
28	2. For injunctive relief pursuant to, without limitation, the California		

1	Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq. and 17500, et seq.;
2	E. On Causes of Action Number 5 against Defendants and in favor of
3	Plaintiff and the other members of the California Subclass:
4	1. For three (3) times the amount of any general and special damages
5	according to proof pursuant to California Civil Code § 1708.8(d);
6	2. For general and special damages according to proof pursuant to
7	California Civil Code § 1708.8(e);
8	3. For punitive damages pursuant to California Civil Code §§
9.	1708.8(d), (e); and
10	4. For injunctive relief pursuant to, without limitation, California Civil
11	Code §§ 1708.8(h)
12	F. On Cause of Action Number 6 against Defendants and in favor of Plaintiff and the other members of the California Sub-Class:
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14	For actual or compensatory damages according to proof;
15	2. For punitive damages
16	G. On Cause of Action Number 7 against Defendants and in favor of Plaintiff and the other members of the Class:
17	1. For actual, compensatory and punitive damages according to proof;
18	2. For punitive damages
19	H. On all causes of action against Defendants and in favor of Plaintiff,
20	Class Members, California Subclass members and the general public:
21	1. For reasonable attorneys' fees according to proof pursuant to, with-
22	out limitation, California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5;
23	2. For costs of suit incurred; and
24	3. For such further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.
25	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
26	Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.
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2	Dated: June 16, 2008	GUTRIDE SAFIER LLP
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4	,	Sect to Ash
5		Seth A. Safier, Esq.
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7		Attorneys for Plaintiff
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